



MEDIA RELEASE

Recent Santa Barbara Crime Trends

SANTA BARBARA, CA – March 21, 2013

The following is a summary of some recent crime trends occurring within the last two months in the City of Santa Barbara. This information has been gleaned from a combination of statistical analysis and input from Patrol Division and Investigative Division supervisors tasked with reviewing crime reports.

The overall numbers of major crimes reported, commonly referred to as "Part 1" crimes, and minor crimes reported, known as "Part 2" crimes, is down.

Violent Crimes: The rate of violent crimes has gone up. This is largely attributed to an increase in the number of incidents involving homeless suspects and victims and the number of incidents involving bar patrons in the nightlife entertainment district. Robberies have decreased. Most documented robberies are shoplifting incidents that become violent after the suspect is confronted by store employees. One robbery that occurred on February 4, 2013, however, involved the use of a gun.

Property Crimes: The overall rate of property crimes has slightly decreased. A recent arrest in the Glendale area resulted in property being recovered from Santa Barbara area burglaries. The rate of residential burglaries remains largely unchanged. In the beginning of March 2013 a series of residential burglaries occurred where items were stolen from unlocked garages. Few residential burglaries involve the use of force; many occur at unlocked residences where items of value, such as laptop computers, are in left visible through windows. Burglaries and thefts from vehicles have increased in the last month, but are still down compared to this period last year. Most burglaries and thefts from vehicles are of purses and electronics left in plain sight in parked cars. Credit cards taken in these incidents are usually used within minutes of being stolen. Commercial burglaries are down.

Gang Incidents: The overall number of gang incidents is remains largely unchanged; two of the documented felony assaults however were stabbings.

A slide presentation with supplemental Santa Barbara crime trends information can be viewed by clicking here: <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Files/Police/Crime%20Trends%20Supplemental%20Slides%20032113.pdf>.

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